

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15915 281833Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR, EC

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY COOPERATION
PROGRAM

REF: PARIS 15013; LONDON 8030

1. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, MFA, CABOUAT, HIS DEPUTY FOR ENERGY PROBLEMS,
AND OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES, THE FOLLOWING PICTURE
EMERGES OF THE VIEWS OF THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT ON FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM AMONG
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15915 281833Z

MAJOR OIL IMPORTERS: A) THE GOF HAS NO INTENTION OF

JOINING THE ECG. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN
JUNE 27, BRUNET CATEGORICALLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS TO THE
EFFECT THAT FRANCE WAS READY TO JOIN THE ECG. B) FRANCE
IS DESIROUS OF PARTICIPATING FULLY IN THE ENERGY COOPER-
ATION PROGRAM AND IS ACTIVELY SEEKING A FORMULA WHICH WILL
PERMIT SUCH PARTICIPATION. THE FRENCH HAVE RECEIVED AND
CAREFULLY STUDIED A COPY OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON THE IEP.
(IT WAS GIVEN TO THEM BY THE GERMANS.) THE QUESTION OF
FRENCH PARTICIPATION WAS SUBMITTED TO GISCARD FOR A
POLICY DECISION. GISCARD ASKED THAT THE PAPER BE CARE-
FULLY STUDIED BY APPROPRIATE FRENCH OFFICIALS. HE ALSO
SAID THAT FRANCE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ENERGY COOPER-
ATION PROGRAM PROVIDED IT WAS BROUGHT UNDER THE AEGIS OF
THE OECD, AND THAT HIGH PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO FINDING A
FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT FRENCH PARTICIPATION ON THESE
TERMS. C) THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT
THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE OECD AS AN AGENCY FOR DEALING
WITH AN ACTION ORIENTED PROGRAM BUT BELIEVE THAT WITH
INGENUITY AND IMAGINATION SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND.

2. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS
IN THE U.S. INTEREST TO FIND A WAY TO PERMIT FULL FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM IN A
CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. THERE IS AT THE PRESENT TIME A
POLITICAL CLIMATE IN FRANCE FAVORABLE TO REVERSING SOME
OF THE MISTAKES OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, PROVIDED THIS
CAN BE DONE IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL NOT LOOK LIKE A
NAKED REVERSAL OF THE POLICIES OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERN-
MENT, WHICH WOULD PROVOKE VIOLENT OPPOSITION OF GAULLIST
DIEHARDS. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CAPITALIZE ON
THIS FAVORABLE SITUATION TO BRING FRENCH INTO THE ENERGY
COOPERATION PROGRAM.

3. THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE SOME ACCOMMODATION
BY US OF FRENCH VIEWS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT A FORMULA CAN
BE DEvised WHICH WOULD MEET FRENCH CONCERNS AND AT THE
SAME TIME BE PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN PROPOSALS
ON IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS AND OUR DESIRE THAT THESE
MECHANISMS NOT BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE
MACHINERY OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. ONE IDEA WHICH
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PAGE 03 PARIS 15915 281833Z

HAS COME UP IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG SOME OF THE
EUROPEANS WHICH WE THINK MERITS CONSIDERATION IS THAT A
SEPARATE ENERGY AGENCY SIMILAR TO THE NEA BE SET UP IN
THE OECD UNDER PART II OF THE OECD BUDGET. 6) AS WE
UNDERSTAND IT, PART II ACTIVITIES CAN BE LIMITED TO
THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE
PROGRAM AND ONLY THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH PARTICIPATE ARE
REQUIRED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE COST OF THE ACTIVITY. WE

RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. TAKE THE LEAD DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE ECG ON THE CREATION OF IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS FOR THE IEP TO DEVISE SOME SUCH FORMULA WHICH WILL PERMIT THESE MECHANISMS TO BE BROUGHT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE OECD IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FRENCH PARTICIPATION.
STONE

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